

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A fixing assembly for securing a fixing member to a prosthetic component, the fixing assembly comprising:

the prosthetic component having either one of a female location feature or a male location feature;

a fixing member having the other of the female location feature and the male location feature, the male and female location features fitting together in use; and

a screw that passes through an aperture extending through the fixing member to secure the fixing member to the prosthetic component, the screw oriented in the aperture of the fixing member to secure purchase of the screw to a bone in which the prosthetic component is implanted, wherein threaded disposition of the screw in the fixing member causes securing of the fixing member to the prosthetic component to occur whether or not the screw gains purchase in the bone; [[and]]

wherein the fixing member is configured to connect rotatably to the prosthetic component; and

wherein each of the male and female location features have at least one corresponding undercut to form an interference fit in use.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the screw is external to the prosthetic component.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The fixing assembly of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the interference fit forms a dovetail joint.

6. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the male location feature comprises at least one portion that is generally flat in profile.

7. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the male location feature comprises at least one portion that is conical in profile.

8. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the male location feature has a slit, such that the male location feature is divided into two arms.

9. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 8, wherein the male location feature is located on the fixing member.

10. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 9, wherein the slit extends radially from the aperture of the fixing member.

11. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 10, wherein the slit is formed in a plane substantially parallel to the axis of the aperture.

12. (Withdrawn) The fixing assembly of claim 10, wherein the slit is formed in a plane substantially perpendicular to the axis of the aperture.

13. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 7, wherein the male location feature is a resiliently deformable material.

14. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the location feature of the prosthetic component is at least partly located on a rim of the prosthetic component.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 9, wherein the screw has a thickened portion that pushes apart the two arms of the male location feature when the screw is screwed into the aperture of the fixing member.

17. (Withdrawn) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the prosthetic component has a threaded portion adjacent a location feature for engaging the screw as the screw is inserted into the aperture of the fixing member.

18. (Withdrawn) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the prosthetic component has a circumferential groove forming the female location feature to lock the fixing member to the prosthetic component.

19. (Withdrawn) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the female location feature is on the fixing member and the male location feature is on the prosthetic component.

20. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the prosthetic component is an acetabular cup.

21. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the prosthetic component is a cup of a prosthetic ball and socket joint.

22. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the fixing member is secured to an external surface of the prosthetic component.

23-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the female location feature is located on the prosthetic component and the male location feature is located on the fixing member.

33. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 1, wherein the screw is threadably received in the aperture of the fixing member.

34. (Previously Presented) The fixing assembly of claim 33, wherein the action of the threads of the screw relative to the fixing member causes the fixing member to be secured to the prosthetic component.

35-37. (Canceled.)